

United States Department of Agriculture



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Transmitted via Email

February 17, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 260-5-22

SUBJECT: INF – MINNESOTA NRCS MARKETING NEWS RELEASE

Purpose. To provide a Marketing Team News Release prepared by Douglas Miller

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

Attached to this bulletin is a news release entitled *NRCS Soil Data Mart – Soil Information for People*. It was prepared for the NRCS Marketing Team by Douglas Miller in the St. Peter Area Office and is intended for use by field offices. This release is the fourth in a series of monthly news releases sponsored by the Minnesota NRCS Marketing Team. Please feel free to adapt, as needed, and distribute as soon as possible to your local news outlets.

The State Office has distributed this news release to regional news outlets including AgriNews and other Minnesota media outlets.

Questions regarding the MN NRCS Marketing Team efforts should be directed to John Nicholson, Marketing Chair, and public information efforts should be directed to Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist.

//s//

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NRCS SOIL DATA MART - SOIL INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE

ST. PETER, MN Feb. 17, 2005 -- Need up-to-date digital and interpretive soils information? Your first stop for this data is only a click away on your web browser. Soil Data Mart delivers digital spatial soil data (which can be layered in a GIS program), and tabular soils data. Just go to <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Soil Data Mart access and information is available free to anyone. Delivering science based soils information to assist all people is part of what NRCS is about. This basic philosophy has not changed over the years. What has changed is how we deliver the soils information and the form in which the soils information comes to the user.

Historically, when an individual needed soils information, they would visit or write to the county soil and water conservation district office to get a soil survey. Crop productivity of the soil was usually the main order of business. Today soil information needs of users has changed. NRCS and district staff require up-to-date soils data for many types of uses: Determining eligibility for programs, or applicability of a site for engineering structures. Private sector users may be individual crop producers or crop consultants looking for digital spatial soils data which can be layered with their field information (crop yield or fertility maps). Urban based consulting firms working on land development plans may be more interested in portraying soil moisture status, spatially, by soil map unit, by soil layer, or by month! This very specific information was never available before. Now, a complex soil database can store this data, and make it available to anyone via the Soil Data Mart.

Digital spatial soil data (which can be layered in a GIS program) includes soil lines, map unit symbols and relative soil information. Tabular data contains by soil map unit, soil physical and chemical data. Many types of interpretive reports (crop yields to engineering properties and uses for example) are included in the tabular data. With Soil Data Mart, no longer are users required to wait for the mail or visit an office for soils information. The soils data is delivered via the internet. Currently, of Minnesota's 87 counties, 48 have digital spatial (SSURGO) soils data available. All counties have tabular soils data available. Soil Data Mart will indicate if your county has spatial data available. Various formats of available spatial and tabular data adds flexibility for users. Soil Data Mart gives users the option to subscribe so when any product has been updated, users will receive an e-mail prompting then to download the latest up-to-date soils data!

Soil Data Mart - Select County or Parish. - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/County.aspx?State=MN> Go Links

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 Minnesota

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Please select a county or parish with at least one survey area:

County Code	County Name	Available Survey Areas
MN001	Aitkin	1
MN003	Anoka	1
MN005	Becker	1
MN007	Beltrami	1
MN009	Benton	1
MN011	Big Stone	1
MN013	Blue Earth	1
MN015	Brown	1
MN017	Carlton	1
MN019	Carver	1
MN021	Cass	1
MN023	Chippewa	1
MN025	Chisago	1
MN027	Clay	1
MN029	Clearwater	1
MN031	Cook	1
MN033	Cottonwood	1
MN035	Crow Wing	1

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Convenient one-stop shopping for soils data at: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>  
 NRCS delivering scientifically based soils information to users, efficiently, and in a format  
 in which users need. Check out the NRCS Soil Data Mart online!